



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY OF
ROBERT L. CURTIS DIRECTOR OF LABOR RELATIONS
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Proposed H.B. No. 5694: An Act Concerning Hazardous Duty Assignments And The Calculation Of Retirement Credit For Department Of Correction Workers.

This act as proposed merely states that Chapter 66 of the general statutes is to be amended to clarify hazardous duty assignments for certain Department of Correction workers and to clarify the calculation of retirement credit for those identified employees. The standards that are to be utilized are not defined.

The conditions for hazardous duty consideration for retirement purposes have generally evolved over the years. Going back to at least 1989, the State has attempted to gain a precise and exact definition of what constitutes hazardous duty consideration under the Retirement System. These attempts have been in the negotiation setting and Interest Arbitration proceedings. The precise and exact definition has not been achieved and the Interest Arbitrators have favored a more open and broader consideration with recognition that the justification for hazardous duty consideration may best be recognized by a review of the particular job and its related duties and functions. The Arbitrators have also acknowledged that the standards applied for law enforcement and corrections that have historically applied should be given substantial weight in evaluating other classes of jobs that seek this hazardous duty acknowledgment.

The current approach has been effective in the resolution of entitlement questions.

It stands to reason that standards if defined should be applicable universally and not be restricted to the Department of Correction.